WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A diagnostic kit to aid in the detection of anti-rubella IgM antibodies, comprising:
 - a first vessel containing rubella antigens comprising rubella E1 glycoprotein and rubella E2 glycoprotein and substantially free of rubella capsid protein;

wherein the E1 and E2 glycoproteins are purified from rubella virus and

- a second vessel containing an indicator reagent that specifically complexes with an anti-rubella IgM antibody.
- 2. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, further comprising a test sample diluent containing urea.
- 3. The diagnostic kit of claim 2, wherein the test sample diluent comprises between about 2 M urea and about 4 M urea.
- 4. The diagnostic kit of claim 2, wherein the test sample diluent comprises about 3 M urea.
- 5. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, further comprising a wash buffer comprising urea.
- 6. The diagnostic kit of claim 5, wherein the wash buffer comprises between about 2 M urea and about 4 M urea.
- 7. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, wherein the rubella antigens are immobilized on a solid support.
- 8. The diagnostic kit of claim 7, wherein the solid support is a membrane, filter, piece of plastic, piece of glass, or bead.
- 9. The diagnostic kit of claim 7, wherein the solid support is polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyamide, polycarbonate, polyether, polymethyl methacrylate, nitrocellulose, polyvinylidene difluoride, agarose, metal, or nylon.

- 10. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, wherein the indicator reagent is conjugated to a detectable label.
- 11. The diagnostic kit of claim 1, wherein the indicator reagent is conjugated to a protein, enzyme, radioisotope, nucleic acid segment, or fluorochrome.
- 12. The diagnostic kit of claim 11, wherein the enzyme is horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, or β-galactosidase.
- 13. The diagnostic kit of claim 11, wherein the enzyme catalyzes the conversion of a nonchemiluminescent reagent into a chemiluminescent product.
- 14. The diagnostic kit of claim 11, wherein the enzyme catalyzes the conversion of a non-colorimetric reagent to a colorimetric product.